

an estimated 15,000 artillery shells capable of the delivery of lethal weapons.

Israel witnessed first hand the reach of his weapons delivery system during the gulf war. We know what happened. We know of missiles that were aimed at Israel. We know he has been working on nuclear weapons because one of his top nuclear engineers defected to the West in 1994 and has given us details of the program.

Over many years, Iraq has worked on a number of occasions to acquire the material and the knowledge to perhaps build some kind of crude nuclear weapon. We can only truly speculate on the extent of his success, but it is commonly believed that an Iraqi nuclear device is inevitable. And if it is not available currently, the question is when?

I think it is fair to say that he is up to no good. We can't say for sure because we haven't had U.N. inspectors in there since 1998. There was a U.N. mandate that we do that. We have not followed through. One can only imagine what he might be able to have accomplished in almost 4 years of seclusion.

As long as we are dependent on sources such as Saddam Hussein for our oil, we will continue to finance the regime of Saddam Hussein. As long as he is in power, he will continue to threaten the world as a member of the axis of evil, which is a quote from our President.

All the tools he needs evidently are now within his grasp. Reducing foreign dependence on oil can reduce the influence and the reach of a Saddam Hussein. The question we have to ask ourselves is, when and if we are going to have to deal with this, what will be the consequences if we wait too long? Will it be another terrorist attack sponsored by Iraq? Will it be another situation where we have something occur that we wish we had taken care of because all the signs were there that this threat was real? Reducing our dependence on a country such as Iraq is going to decrease the supply of oil, so the price is going to go up.

So what do we do? We have domestic opportunities, and some of that will come up in the debate on ANWR, which obviously, as the occupant of the Chair knows, is a conviction I have, that we can open it safely, that it will come on line in roughly 2½ to 3 years, that it would be on line now if President Clinton had not vetoed it in 1995, and that it is a significant supply because it is estimated at somewhere between 6.5 and 16 billion barrels. If it is half that, it would be as big as Prudhoe Bay.

I might add, for the benefit of the Chair, who is not from Texas, I can speculate that there is much more oil in ANWR than in all of Texas.

With that profound statement, I ask unanimous consent that a Washington Post article of Friday, March 1, final edition, be printed in the RECORD, that portion covering Thursday's bombing which comes amid a rising debate on whether Iraq will be the next target of

U.S. antiterrorism campaigns. President George Bush "branded Iraq as part of an 'axis of evil' along with Iran and North Korea, and accused it of seeking weapons of mass destruction."

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 1, 2002]

JETS ON PATROL OVER IRAQ ATTACK AIR DEFENSE SITES

ANKARA (AP).—U.S. planes patrolling a no-fly zone over northern Iraq bombed an Iraqi air defense system Thursday in response to Iraqi anti-aircraft fire, the U.S. military said.

It is the second time that U.S. planes have bombed Iraqi defense sites in northern Iraq this year. The planes dropped bombs on the Iraqi defense system after Iraqi forces north of Mosul fired on them during routine patrols of the zone, the U.S. European Command said on a statement. Mosul is 400 kilometers (250 miles) north of Baghdad.

The planes returned safely to their base at Incirlik, in southern Turkey, the command, which is based in Germany, said.

U.S. and U.K. planes based in southeast Turkey have been flying patrols over northern Iraq since 1991 to protect the Kurdish population from Iraqi forces. Iraq doesn't recognize the zone and has been challenging allied aircraft regularly since 1998.

Thursday's bombing comes amid a rising debate on whether Iraq will be the next target of the U.S. anti-terror campaign. U.S. President George W. Bush branded Iraq as part of an "axis of evil" along with Iran and North Korea, and accused it of seeking weapons of mass destruction.

Turkey, host to the air patrols and a launching pad for strikes against Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War, fears that a war in Iraq could lead to creation of a Kurdish state and boost aspirations of autonomy-seeking Kurds in Turkey.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so order.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI, has come to the floor on several occasions and complained about the manner and method in which Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DASCHLE brought forth the energy bill, which will shortly come before the Senate. They have complained about the path by which it got to the floor. My friend, the Senator from Alaska, says it should have been reported out of the Energy Committee rather than coming to the floor by Senate standing rule XIV.

But, in May of 2000, Senator LOTT moved a Republican bill—the National Energy Security Act of 2000—to the floor by rule XIV.

So when the Senator from Alaska was chair of the Energy Committee and the Republicans were in the majority, they moved the bill to the floor exactly the same way Senator DASCHLE has moved our bill. So the ranking member

of the Energy Committee is now complaining of Senator DASCHLE doing exactly the same thing they did. He participated in this when he was chairman of the committee.

It seems the Senator from Alaska is denigrating the example he set last Congress. I guess in the minds of the minority, turnabout is not fair play. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EQUAL PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2001

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I would like to clarify some issues related to my amendment that passed the Senate earlier this week regarding the establishment of a protection and advocacy system to ensure that people with disabilities have full and equal access to the election process. Among other provisions, my amendment states that protection and advocacy systems under S. 565 may not resort to litigation when representing persons with disabilities who have been denied equal access to the polling place or to the voting process.

I agreed to this provision with some trepidation, since the protection and advocacy system has a long and well established authority under several federal laws to pursue litigation to enforce the rights of people with disabilities. The protection and advocacy system has proven themselves to be responsible stewards of the public trust we as members of Congress have placed in them in regard to litigation. The protection and advocacy system is known for exhausting all other remedies before resorting to litigation, and in fact less than 5 percent of all cases handled by protection and advocacy systems nationally result in litigation. The vast majority of people with disabilities helped by the protection and advocacy system have their issues resolved through alternative means of dispute resolution such as negotiation and mediation.

And yet the authority to pursue litigation when necessary and when warranted is an essential component of our nation's disability rights system. If we take away the ability of people with disabilities to obtain due process through the courts, we take away the level playing field created by laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Rehabilitation Act, the Developmental Disabilities Act, and others. Because of that, it is essential that protection and advocacy systems retain their current authority to utilize a full array of approaches, including litigation, to carry

out their important work as defenders of the rights of people with disabilities. Nothing in my amendment today is intended to undermine that important authority in any other federal laws affecting the protection and advocacy system.

I look forward to continuing in my role as a champion of the protection and advocacy system, and of the rights of people with disabilities.

FIGHTING HATE VIOLENCE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay homage to the legion of African-American leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to humanity by fighting to secure equality and justice for us all. As a consequence of their valiant efforts, people of color can now enjoy a quality of life, including unprecedented educational and professional opportunities, never before realized. Because of their courage, we all can experience the benefits that flow from building a nation that values the creativity and talent of all her citizens. I am, and we all should be, proud to be the beneficiaries of their heroic acts.

Despite the extraordinary accomplishments of the past century, however, we began this new millennium still burdened by the weight of racial prejudice and the hatred, and sometimes violence, that emanates from it. Based on improved data collection efforts, we now know that far too frequently individuals may be victimized or otherwise targeted for vicious acts, simply because of the color of their skin, or the content of their faith, or because of any number of distinguishing characteristics—differences that should form the basis of our best American values, but instead are used to injure certain individuals and tarnish the American spirit.

Simply stated, hate violence is a scourge on our national consciousness, and the incidents of it are embarrassingly high. Perhaps the best-known racially-motivated hate crime in recent years is the callous killing of James Byrd, who, for no other reason except the color of his skin, was chained to the back of a pickup truck and dragged to his death. Mr. Byrd's death was senseless and shocking, but by no means is it the only example of such a crime. Each year, thousands of Americans are subjected to hate crimes, in perhaps not so savage a manner as Mr. Byrd's murder, but no less cruel and no less harmful.

Consider these numbers: while the overall number of crimes reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2000 declined slightly, by 0.2 percent, reported hate crimes increased 2.3 percent, from 7,876 in 1999 to 8,063. And by all indicators, those numbers likely underestimate the true magnitude of hate violence in our country. Studies by organizations like the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives have revealed that countless tar-

gets of hate violence, some of whom are immigrants who fear reprisals or deportation, decline to report these crimes to the police.

As disturbing as the quantity of hate crimes committed each year, however, is the record number of young people who are perpetrating these crimes. According to a special report by the Federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 1997 to 1999, 33 percent of all known hate crime offenders were under the age of 18 years. For that same time period, another 29 percent of all hate crime offenders were 18 to 24 years of age. In total, an alarming 62 percent of all offenders were under the age of 24. When they should be imagining their college years or their early career plans, some kids, sometimes suffering under great mental depression, are instead conjuring up awful acts of hatred.

The damage caused by these crimes cannot be measured solely in terms of the physical injury inflicted or the property costs incurred. The devastation they provoke is far greater and much more destructive. These crimes fragment our society and inspire distrust. They fuel fear and suspicion of groups and communities that are unfamiliar. And, perhaps most fatal, they threaten to stall the important growth and community-building that must transpire for this Nation to retain its standing as a world leader for centuries to come.

If we have learned anything from the tragic events of September 11, it is that we cannot tolerate acts of hatred. We must enable a swift and tough law enforcement response by refining Federal hate crime laws, as well as give our children the tools to confront violent bigotry by providing necessary education and programming.

We can undertake to do nothing more important, nor pay any greater tribute to the heroes we honor during Black History Month, than to fight hate violence in every form and in every way we know. The security and safety of all Americans depend on it.

TRIBUTE TO DAN NAATZ

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to a good friend of mine, someone who has worked by my side for the last 13 years.

Dan Naatz has been my chief of staff for the last 2 years, but his commitment to me and Wyoming has lasted much longer than that.

I first met Dan back in 1989 when he joined my office in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was one of the first staff members I hired after being elected that year in a special election to fill the seat left open by DICK CHENEY who was nominated to be our Secretary of Defense.

After several years, Dan made the decision to return to school and earn a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

I was disappointed to see him go then, but after he earned that degree I

was fortunate enough to convince him to come back and serve as my legislative director.

Dan was with me when I was honored to win a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1994 as well. Our history together goes way back.

It is never easy to lose someone like Dan, who has been with me since the beginning. He has held nearly every position in my office and did them all very well. None better than the job he did of leading my staff and our legislative agenda for Wyoming.

It was inevitable though that Dan would be recognized outside of this body though for his expertise in crafting successful legislation and public policy.

Over the years, he has been a key advisor and good friend.

Particularly, Dan played a significant role in our efforts to reform and strengthen the National Park System.

As Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, he and I spent many hours together, first writing and developing changes that would improve the system for visitors and the valuable resources, and then, as the engine that helped see it through to public law.

I was proud of all the work he did, and he should be proud of the changes he helped make, because they will make a difference for future generations who will visit and experience our parks.

Dan has joined CHEP USA. I wish him and his wife Cindy and their family the best of luck, and I know the Senate body does as well.

PROSECUTING GUN-RELATED CRIMES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the fight to reduce gun violence must be waged on two fronts. First, we need to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, prevent children from gaining access to firearms and give law enforcement the resources they need to thoroughly investigate gun-related crimes. At the same time, we have to vigorously prosecute criminals who commit gun-related crimes.

According to the 2000 National Crime Victimization Survey, 533,470 victims of rape and sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault faced a perpetrator with a firearm. The Community Gun Violence Prosecution Program can play a major role in improving prosecution of criminals who commit these gun-related violent crimes by providing funding to hire prosecutors solely to prosecute firearm-related violent crimes. Providing funds to improve prosecution will not only bring felons to justice, but will also act as a deterrent to future crimes.

On Monday, it was announced that the Dickinson County, MI, prosecutors office will receive \$119,117 from the U.S. Department of Justice through CGVPP. The grant will be used to hire an assistant prosecutor who will devote